

**January 12, 2005**

**To: Members, Water Use Efficiency Subcommittee**  
**From: Tom Gohring, Water Use Efficiency Program Manager**  
**Re: Water Management Science Board – Candidate Questions**

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At its November 2004 meeting, WUE Subcommittee members reviewed and commented on a draft list of WUE-related questions that may merit discussion with soon-to-be-convened Water Management Science Board (WM-SB).

Participants generally agreed that the WUE Program should focus its effort on the big-picture questions and streamline the list of candidate questions to emphasize only the most critical topics. Several Subcommittee members said it is better to put forward a limited, prioritized list to the Science Board to ensure it focuses its attention on the Program's most pressing needs.

To that end, staff agreed to develop a shorter list of topics to present to the WM-SB for its consideration. Staff further agreed to bring a draft list to the WUE Subcommittee for its review and comment.

Attached please find a revised list of candidate topics. This list was prepared by Tom Gohring and reviewed by WM-SB Chair Jack Keller and CALFED staff and consultants.

## CANDIDATE QUESTIONS FOR WATER MANAGEMENT SCIENCE BOARD DELIBERATION

### WATER USE EFFICIENCY PROGRAM ELEMENT

*(Revised based on November 2005 discussion with WUE Subcommittee. For review and further revision at January 19, 2005, WUE Subcommittee meeting.)*

The primary objectives of Water Use Efficiency (WUE) science activities are to: 1) support well informed decisions; 2) verify results of actions; and 3) engage in adaptive management. To that end, below is a listing of candidate questions/topics<sup>1</sup> to be deliberated upon by the Water Management Science Board (WM-SB).

1. **WUE Potential.** What's the potential for water use efficiency actions to help meet California's water needs?
2. **Cost.** How do costs associated with water use efficiency actions change from region to region? What is the impact of those cost ranges on the potential of WUE?
3. **Critical Unknowns.** What are the critical unknowns associated with WUE? What technological changes are likely in the year ahead and what impact might those changes have on WUE potential and costs? Are there ramifications for the WUE program?
4. **Barriers.** What are the barriers to successfully implementing an aggressive WUE program? What are the strategies - if any - for overcoming those barriers?
5. **Performance Evaluation/Monitoring.** How can the Program best measure progress and track results? What additional monitoring and evaluation needs to be done?

Undoubtedly, there will be other, topic-specific issues arising at necessitate WM-SB consideration. For now, however, this is staff's best take at a streamlined list of broad topics ripe for deliberation by the WM-SB.

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<sup>1</sup> WMSB Chair Jack Keller has emphasized that it is not necessary for the committees to frame "science questions;" rather, it is most important that they frame questions that are policy relevant.